

The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Thursday, December 25, 1729.

From th' Universal Spectator, Decem. 13.

I Have lately observed a wonderful Increase of the troublesome sort of Folks call'd *STARERS*, who infest publick Places as well as private Companies, and with a harden'd Front and a Steadiness of Eye, insult, brow-beat and domineer over the *Free-born Subjects of G. Britain*. One of 'em comes to a Coffeehouse I frequent, and after strutting about the Room, and *flaring* first at One, then at Another, quite round the House, he then claps himself down opposite to me, cocks his Hat, takes a Pinch of Snuff, and fixes his Eyes on mine, so that I am unable to smoke out my Pipe in quiet, and am obliged to quit the Room, while his Eyes pursue me to the very Door. Being unable to suffer such Usage any longer, I give him publick Notice, That I have invented a *Machine* to be placed before him, and sent to the Coffeehouse for that Purpose. It is artfully contriv'd, with Leaves to fold quite round the *Starer*, (like a Screen, and inclose him. And as my Intention is to regulate this Indecorum, I have ordered one after the same manner to be made for each of the other Coffeehouses. The Man I employ is a poor honest Fellow, an Upholsterer, who failed in Circumstances, for want of being able to look People in the Face who owed him Money; and therefore, in Compassion, I give this Invention, thinking it highly reasonable, whilst I punish *Impudence*, to assist one who has suffered for *Modesty*. I doubt not my *Machine* will be very useful both in Town and Country; seeing for the publick Benefit I sell them at a moderate Price, little more than the Charge of Workmanship and Materials. They are to be plac'd in the most conspicuous Part of a Room, to be seen, and brought as soon as there is Occasion. Any private Family may be furnished at the same Rate, by sending a Commission to Mr. *Stonecastle*, Upholsterer to the Printer of this Paper. *Nota.* They will be highly necessary for such as keep *Assemblies* or *Visittings*.

I have likewise another Instrument for the same Purpose, which goes with Springs, and is design'd for the Pocket, and is to be clapt on the *Starer's*

Face, fastening to his Ears with Screws, so that he cannot possibly get quit of them, without the Assistance of him who plac'd 'em; so will certainly be of great Service in the Streets, at Churches, and Playhouses, where the large Machine cannot be so properly us'd.

As this Instrument will be of such general Benefit, that 'tis hoped no Body will stir abroad without one, the Profits thereby arising will be so considerable, that I design to apply them towards Payment of the *Publick Debt*; for which I hope to get a Patent for the sole Privilege of making and vending them; and then (after deducting prime Cost) shall religiously pay the Residue into the *Exchequer*, without any Defalcation: And I question not, it will amount to more than some of our *Taxes* do, after passing thro' the many Hands appointed for receiving them. That my Computations are not made at random, will be evident, if we consider what Money is annually expended for a *Machine* invented to serve the same Purpose with mine, tho' it comes far short of it; I mean the *Fan*. This too, is only us'd by one Sex, and yet several Millions are yearly sold, to the clear Gain of several Thousand Pounds *per annum*; but as my Contrivance will be proper for both Sexes, I suppose the Number sold will be at least double. Another Profit is, That Multitudes who are now idle, almost starving, and burdenson to the Publick, will be employed, get Bread for their Families, be kept from picking Pockets, robbing in the Streets, and at last from the Gallows; in short, they will be set to Work, which is the most useful-kind of Charity.

But to return to the Instruments themselves: That they may be as convenient as possible, those for Ladies will be made to play with, and answer all the Uses of a Fan, having the same Form, to prevent any Suspicion of what they really are; and the Men's will be made to fold up and appear like a Handkerchief: But both one and t'other, when applied to the *Starer's* Face, will represent a Fool's Cap with Asses Ears, or some quaint or whimsical Con-



Conceit or other, of which there will be a wonderful Variety, according to the Choice and Fancy of the Buyer.

It may perhaps be objected, That the small Engines will make the large ones needless; and indeed in time it may be so: But as at present, the larger ones are brought to Perfection, and the others not, I assure my self the Call for them will be great, as the Want is so. And after all, in many Cases they will be found convenient, where the lesser ones cannot be so properly used: As for Instance, suppose a *Starer* sits at a distant Part of a Room, a Screen may be placed before him by only speaking to a Servant; whereas the Hand Instrument can be of no further Service than the Arm can reach. Therefore Coffeehouses, &c. can never be without the large Machine, not only for the above Reason, but in case their Customers should on Occasion, happen to be unprovided with the smaller Sort.

And now, to enter a little into the Nature of these *Starers*: They are People wholly insensible of Shame themselves, and consequently unable to conceive the Pain and Uneasiness of being put out of Countenance. Was it possible to apply to their Understandings, I should have tried that way; but having constantly found in all of them I have seen, a total Deprivation, or a great Deficiency in all the Faculties and Operations of the Mind, I could not find out a better Method of reforming them than by the *Organs of the Senses*.

As my *Fair Readers* are most exposed to, and least able to undergo the Insults of these People, it is chiefly for their Sakes I have endeavoured to find out means of keeping the Fellows within the Bounds of Decency; being particularly resolved to exert my self in favour of the LADIES, while I am, &c.

From the Evening Post, Decem. 18.

London, Decem. 18. Lodgings are hired in Leicester Fields for Mr. John Law, Son of the late Famous John Law, who with his Lady are suddenly expected from beyond Seas.

Wye's Letter verbatim, London, Decem. 20.

Since our last arrived a Mail from Holland.

WE are informed from Durham, that on Tuesday Morning last, Robert Shaftoe Esq; Member of Parliament for the City, departed this Life. He was universally esteemed for his steady Love to his Country, and Adherence to the established

Church. He is succeeded in his Estate, which is upwards of 2000 l. per annum, by his Brother John Shaftoe Esq; who is an eminent Counsellor at Law, and designs to stand Candidate for, and Representative of the said City, in Room of his Brother. And this Morning he set out hence for Durham; but whether he will meet with any Opposition in the Election, is not yet known.

On Thursday Night last died, at his Lodgings near Queen-square, Ormond street, the Right H. Richard Baron of Clanbrazil, in the Kingdom of Ireland, Grandson to the late Earl Coningsby; and it is said he designed the ensuing Session of Parliament, to have claimed his Right of Peerage, as Earl Coningsby.

People are very impatient to have the Articles of the Treaty concluded with Spain published here by Authority; which according to the Advices by the Holland Mail, are published at Seville, but that many doubted of the Authentickness of them; but for what Reasons are not mentioned. Mean time they tell us, that his Majesty had ordered the Troops which are to convoy Don Carlos when he goes to Italy, to be ready on the shortest Warning to embark, which it is said will be at Barcelona; and that the Court will repair thither at the Time fixed for that Purpose.

The Letters from Vienna speak of great Things to be in Agitation at the Imperial Court, whither, as it is pretended, the Electors of Mentz, Cologne, Trier and Bavaria, are to come in the Spring, when Prince Eugene is to go to Italy; and that the Kings of Poland and Prussia have sent Assurances to the Emperor, that they will furnish him with whatever Assistance he shall desire. But by the by, his Imperial Majesty has Advice from his Frontiers, that the Ottomans were carrying on their Levies, and military Preparations with great Vigor; so that probably he may have Occasion to make use of some Part of his Arms on that Side.

'Tis wrote from Moscow, that on the 30th past their Sovereign declared to the Ministers of the Grand Council, that he was determined to espouse the Princess Dolhorucki, the Prince of that Name's eldest Sister.

Yesterday the Court of Directors of the South Sea Company came to a Resolution on the Affairs we lately mentioned, viz. To purchase for the future of the Merchants, Traders to Guinea and Jamaica, or their Agents in that Island, what Negroes

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groes they shall want for the Supply of the Affien-
to. Yesterday the Reverend Dr. East, a Preben-
dary of Canterbury, was inducted into the Living
of St. Sweetthins, near London-stone.

An anonymous Person, who styles himself by the
fictitious Name of Roger Gingle Esq; has taken the
Liberty to burlesque the Rev. M. Bettry's Sermon
preached before the University of Oxford, in Hud-
ibrastick Verse; and is so ludicrous in his Perfor-
mance, that it has, as we hear, given Offence to
several of the Bishops, and that they have made
great Complaints against it, in order to stop the
further Publication of it.

From the Daily Post-Boy, Dec. 20.

Hague, Decem. 23. The Congress of Brunswick
goes on but at Snail's-pace, rather seem to por-
tend a Summer War than a Winter Accommoda-
tion; the rather, that the King of Prussia neglects
no Means of augmenting his Troops, &c. and is re-
solved to have his Army completed to 100,000
Horse and Foot.

Paris, Decem. 23. There's an Arret of the King's
Council of State come out, importing, 'That the
Edicts, Arrests, Declarations, &c. concerning
the Commerce of the India Company, shall be ex-
ecuted in the Harbiur and City of Dunkirk; and
particularly their Privilege of selling Coffee ex-
clusively of all others.

Hamburg, Dec. 24. They write from Dresden,
that the King of Poland was set out for Zounevald,
in Lower Lusatia, to have an Interview with the
King of Prussia, his Majesty declining to wait till
the Interview in the Spring.

From the Weekly Journal, Decem. 20.

Our Letters from Germany as well as Italy con-
firm, that the Emperor is augmenting his Troops,
&c. to oppose the Entrance of Don Carlos into It-
aly, which they say is to be attempted by Force.
If so, it may involve Europe into a long War, con-
sidering what Troops the Emperor has in Italy,
and that 'tis easier for him to pour Troops into that
Country, than for the King of Spain to transport
them by Sea.

By Letters from France and Holland we
learn, that they pretend to have a Light into the
Peace, or rather, into the Truce, (for so they are
pleased to call it.) A Truce is a Thing which con-
cludes Nothing, but keeps all Pretensions standing.
It is something like a Peace, tho' it is none. It an-
swers the Description which an Arch-fellow gave

of his Rare-shew: *Gentlemen and Ladies* (says he)
here is the finest Shew in the World; a Thing very like
a Horse, which is no Horse, having his Head where his
Tail should be.

The Terms of this Treaty had however been
made publick before now, had the wary Dutch ex-
changed the Ratifications. Whatever the Terms
may be, th' Emperor is not so well pleased with 'em
as we are, whether dreading some Piece of Knight-
Errantry to be performed in his Neighbourhood,
or for other Reasons.

From the Evening Post, Dec. 20.

Moscow, Nov. 30. The Emperor has declared
this Morning to the Ministers of the Grand Coun-
cil, That he had resolved to espouse the Princess
Alexierina-Alexiewna Dolhorucki, eldest Sister of
the Prince of that Name, who is a very amiable
amiable Princess, and of much Wit and Merit.
The Ceremony of betrothing is appointed for next
Tuesday; and is not doubted but this Marriage
will be consummated very soon, although his Im-
perial Majesty is but just entred into his 15th Year;
however, he is very tall and well made for his Age,
and of a very good Constitution. It is remarked
that the Emperor declared his Marriage the Day
of the Feast of the Name of the Empreess of the Ro-
mans, according the Old Stile.

Hamburg, Dec. 20. The Levies here for the
Imperial Troops are carried on with good Success.
They write from Petersburg, that several Ships
which were in the Road of Cronstadt, having lost
their Anchors by the late Storms, were thrown
upon the Ice, where they perished without any
Thing being saved. 'Tis advised from Moscow,
that the Emperor has given Orders to form in
the Month of May next a Camp of 16000 near the
City; that another of 12000 Men was to be for-
med near Riga, and a 3d in Courland of all the
Russian Troops in that Province; which makes it
believed that this Russian Majesty will go to re-
view them.

London, Dec. 20. Last Thursday died James Grant
Esq; Brother to Sir Archibald Grant Bart. at his
Brother's House in Conduit street, near Hanover-
square.

Lord Mark Ker has the Government of Sheer-
ness, in the Room of Lieutenant General Withers
deceased.

We are informed that a Board of General Office
have reported to his Majesty, that it is their humb
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Opinion, that a Colonel is answerable for the Deficiency of an Agent; and accordingly some Officers of Colonel Philips's Regiment have obtained his Majesty's Warrant for stopping the Colonel's Pay, till the Officers Debts are satisfied out of the same.

Edinburgh, Decem. 25. On Tuesday Night a Difference happened betwixt the Honourable Master Alexander Elphinston, and Lieutenant John Swift of the Lord Cadogan's Regiment quartered in Canonsgate; when, after most opprobrious and abusive Language given Mr. Elphinston by the latter, they agreed to meet next Morning in Leith Links, to decide the Affair; where having accordingly met, they both drew, and after several Turns, the Lieutenant received a Wound, whereof he died this Morning. Mr. Elphinston was also dangerously wounded, and apprehended by a Serjeant and three or four Soldiers, who happened to be near the Place; but soon after made his Escape: for which the Serjeant and Soldiers are committed.

On Wednesday Night last, died at his Seat of Marlesfield, Sir William Beuner of Gruber, Baronet, one of the Commissioners of Excise: Much regretted, being a Gentleman of great Honour and Integrity.

This Day (being the 17th of the Moon) 'tis High Water at Leith at 3 o' Clock, 6 Min. Tomorrow, at 3, 54 Min. On Saturday, at 4, 42 Min.

Haddington, Decem. 19, 1729.

Best Wheat, 09 08 00.	2d, 09 00 00.	3d, 08 08 00
Best Bear, 06 16 00.	2d, 06 10 00.	3d, 06 00 00
Best Oats, 06 14 00.	2d, 06 08 00.	3d, 06 00 00
Best Pease, 04 16 00.	2d, 04 10 00.	3d, 04 04 00

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Just Published, in a neat Pocket Volume,
(Sold by the AUTHOR and other Booksellers of Edinburgh,
and by the Booksellers of London, Newcastle, Glasgow,
Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness, &c.)

Volume Second of Poems by ALLAN RAMSAY, Price (handsomely bound) Four Shillings. Where may be had, the First Volume, at the same Price, equally bound; also a new Edition of the *Tea-Table Miscellany*, or Collection of the best Scots Songs, with large Additions. Price bound, Two Shillings each Volume.

That the TENEMENTS of LAND after mentioned (lying within the City of Edinburgh) which belonged to the deceased ROBERT STARK Writer in Edinburgh viz. A Tenement of Land in the Close called *The Back of St. Mary's*, consisting of four Storeys, with Closets, Cellars and Garrets, being of yearly Rent about £. 24 08 08 and that other Tenement of Land in *Preston's Close*, commonly called *Stewart's Close*, on the North Side of the Street, near the Coals, consisting of five Storeys and a Top or Garret-storey, with Closets and Cellars belonging there to, paying £. 34 15 sh. Sterl. of yearly Rent. ARE to be voluntarily Roup and Sold, by the Relator

her Husband; each of the said Tenements by themselves, either in hall or in different Storeys, as Purchasers shall desire, upon the Eighth Day of January next, at Three of the clock after Noon, within the House of Mrs. Nickolson Vintner in Edinburgh. The particular Rental, Progress and Conditions of Roup, are to be seen in the Hands of ADAM MERCER Writer in Edinburgh, at his House in the Head of Liberton's Wynd.

These are to advertise, That the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Edinburgh FRIENDLY INSURANCE against Losses by Fire, is to be held on Monday the 12th of January next, in Mary's Chappel in Niddry's Wynd, Edinburgh, at three a Clock afternoon.

By ADJOURNMENT,

That the Lands of *East-Harburnhead*, of £. 538; 05, 08 Scots of yearly Rent, with a convenient Dwelling-House two Storeys high, with good and convenient Office-houses, all lately repaired, and some little planted Inclosures. The Lands of *West-Harburnhead*, £. 266 13 04. *Middle-Muir*, £. 72 13 03; 16 Bolls Meal; lying contiguous. The Lands of *Dresselrig and Sandigate*, £. 109 Money, 10 Bolls Meal, 1 Boll Oats; a Pendicle thereof called *Backstonford*, £. 26 06 08 Money, 4 Bolls Meal. The Lands of *Well-heads of Williamston*, £. 191 02 04 Money, 10 Bolls Meal, yearly Rent; all lying in the Parishes of Mid and West Calders, and Sheriffdom of Edinburgh; all set to good and sufficient Tenants, at the above Rent, conform to Tacks. To be holden Feu of the Crown, or of the Right Honourable the Lord of Torphichen: ARE to be Rouped and Sold on Wednesday the 5th of January next, in the House of Robert Broun Vintner in Edinburgh, 'twixt the Hours of 3 & 4 after Noon, jointly or separately; as hereto subjoined, in four different Parcels. The Rental, Progress, and Conditions of Roup to be seen in the Hands of JAMES SCOT Writer in Edinburgh, at his House in Byres's Close, or George Dick Writer in Mid-Calder. *Nota.* The Lands are very improvable, being partly Muir and partly Dale-Lands; a Slate Quarey in the Lands of *East-Harburnhead*, Moissin several of the Mailings, and a Lime Quarey in *Backstonford*, and lying near to several Coal heughs.

1. *East-Harburnhead and Middlemuir.*
2. *West-Harburnhead.*
3. *Wellheadlands of Williamston.*
4. *Dresselrig, Sandigate and Backstonford.*

Nota. If any Person has a mind to purchase upon reasonable Terms, before the Day of Roup, they may enquire at the said James Scot, or George Dick; at both which Places they may be treated with.

That the Land and Barony of MARJORIBANKS (alias WEST-CALDER) including the Lands of GARVIE-SIDE and BROPTHERSTON, with a convenient Dwelling-house two Storeys high, Office-houses and Dovecoat, lying in the Parish of West Calder and Sheriffdom of Edinburgh. As likewise, the Lands of BYERS; in the Parish of Bathgate and Sheriffdom of Lighthgow, holding Feu of the Crown for Payment of 8 Merks yearly; extending the whole yearly Rent to 6000 Merks, or thereby, besides the Dovecoat: ARE to be Rouped and Sold upon Monday the 19th of January next, in the House of Robert Broun Vintner in Edinburgh, betwixt the Hours of 3 & 4 in the Afternoon, jointly or separately. The Rental, Progress, and Conditions of Roup are to be seen in the Hands of James Scot Writer in Edr. at his House in Byer's Close.